

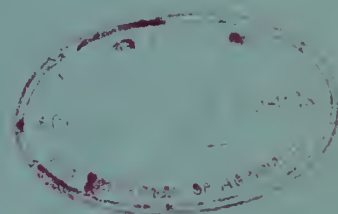
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SUGGESTED OUTLINE
FOR
SPECIFICATIONS FOR PURCHASING CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Prepared
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U. S. Department of Agriculture



May, 1938, Reissued January, 1939
Consumers' Counsel Division,
Agricultural Adjustment Administration,
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I. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CONNECTION WITH SPECIFICATIONS
FOR CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

The quality or grade required is the most important item in any specification. Select the grade or grades which meet your particular requirements.

General descriptions of the U. S. standards for grades of the Agricultural Marketing Service are as follows:

"Grade C (Standard)" consists of good wholesome food. In this grade, a large percentage of all canned foods is found. The raw products used in this grade may not be so carefully selected as to size, color, and maturity as in the higher grades. Products of this grade should sell at lower prices than products of the higher grades; but in many commodities the food is just as nutritious.

In "Grade B (Extra Standard)" will be found vegetables that are more succulent than those in "Grade C"; moreover, fruits in this grade are better selected as to color, size and maturity. This grade will be found very satisfactory for general household purposes.

In "Grade A (Fancy)" canned products, only the finest products are packed. The vegetables are very carefully selected as to size, color and maturity. Incidentally, not a large proportion of canned products will be found in this grade.

In the interest of brevity it is suggested that the grade name only be shown. It is not necessary to write a detailed or abbreviated description of the above grades.

After selecting the grade, describe the product further by such of the following additional requirements as may be appropriate.

- Style: Where more than one style of a product is available.
Example: "Cream style" canned corn and "whole grain style" canned corn are examples of a product packed in more than one form.
- Type: Where more than one type of a product is available.
When distinctions are necessary in describing markedly dissimilar packs of a commodity the term "type" is used. For example, Early June and Late (or sweet) types of peas; and Red Sour and Sweet types of cherries.
- Size: Indicate what size or sizes of containers are to be furnished and whether to be packed in plain or enameled sanitary cans.

Drained Weight: If the commodity is one commonly packed in brine or sirup, specify minimum drained weight desired.

Count: For such commodities as fruits or vegetables, in which count is important, specify the range of count of pieces desired. "Range of count" is suggested for it is seldom practicable to require a specific number of pieces for each can. Variations incident to commercial canning are almost unavoidable.

Sirup Density: In the case of fruit, or "water pack" if fruit packed in water is desired.

EXAMPLES

If you desire the best grade of all green asparagus spears of medium size in No. 2 tins, your specification for this item would properly read:

Asparagus, all green

U. S. Grade A (Fancy), in No. 2 tins, minimum drained weight $13 \frac{1}{2}$ ounces, count 33 to 50 spears to the tin.

If you decide that your needs for canned peaches require halves or uniform size, symmetry and texture, packed in heavy sirup, your specification might well read:

Peaches: yellow cling

U. S. Grade B (Choice), in No. 2 $1\frac{1}{2}$ tins, minimum drained weight 19 ounces, count 7 to 9 halves, in heavy sirup (19 to 23.9° Brix).

If you decide that your requirements for soup or for stewing purposes are such that you do not need tomatoes whole or in large pieces, nor of the highest color, in No. 2 tins, U. S. Grade C (Standard) will probably be satisfactory. Your specification would then properly read:

Tomatoes:

U. S. Grade C (Standard), in No. 2 tins, (in this instance, drained weight need not be stated as it is specified in the official grades).

II. DETAILS TO BE INCLUDED IN SPECIFICATIONS FOR
CERTAIN CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

(1) APPLES, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)	<u>Specify:</u> Grade; minimum drained weight; size and kind of container.
U. S. GRADE C (Standard)	

(2) APPLESAUCE, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)	<u>Specify:</u> Grade; size and kind of container.
U. S. GRADE C (Standard)	

(3) APRICOTS, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)	<u>Specify:</u> Grade; style (whole or halves); minimum drained weight; range of count; sirup density (if sirup-pack), indicating whether extra heavy, heavy, medium or light-sirup is desired; size and kind of container.
U. S. GRADE B (Choice)	
U. S. GRADE C (Standard)	
U. S. GRADE D (Seconds)	
U. S. GRADE E (Water pack)	
U. S. GRADE F (Pie)	

(4) ASPARAGUS, canned

	<u>Specify:</u> Grade; type; whether "culturally bleached", or "all green" style; whether spears or cuts; range of count if spears are desired; size and kind of container.
U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)	
U. S. GRADE C (Standard)	

(5) BEANS, DRY, canned

(Red kidney, so-called "baked beans", etc.)

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)	<u>Specify:</u> Grade; style, if so-called "baked beans" are desired, whether in tomato or plain sauce, with or without pork; size and kind of container.
U. S. GRADE C (Standard)	

(6) BEANS, LIMA, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

Specify: Grade; sieve size (1, 2, 3, 4); size and kind of container.

U. S. GRADE B (Extra Standard)

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

(7) BEANS, SNAP, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

Specify: Grade; color (green or wax); style (whole, cut, or "asparagus" style); sieve size (1, 2, 3, 4); minimum drained weight; size and kind of container.

U. S. GRADE B (Extra Standard)

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

(8) BEETS, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

Specify: Grade; style (whole, sliced, diced, quartered or cut); range of count (if packed whole); size and kind of container.

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

(9) CARROTS, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

Specify: Grade; style (whole, sliced, diced, quartered or cut); size and kind of container.

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

(10) CHERRIES, Red sour, pitted,
canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

Specify: Grade; minimum drained weight (in No. 10 cans - 74, 76, or 80 ozs.); size and kind of container.

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

(11) CHERRIES, sweet, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

Specify: Grade or variety; type; range of count; sirup density; minimum drained weight; size and kind of container.

U. S. GRADE B (Choice)

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

U. S. GRADE D (Seconds)

U. S. GRADE E (Water pack)

U. S. GRADE F (Pie)

(12) CORN, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

U. S. GRADE B (Extra Standard)

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

Specify: Grade; variety; style (cream or whole grain); color (white or yellow), size and kind of container.

(13) GRAPEFRUIT, Canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

U. S. GRADE B (Choice)

U. S. BROKEN (Broken)

Specify: Grade; size and kind of container.

(14) GRAPEFRUIT JUICE, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

Specify: Grade; whether to be sweetened or unsweetened; size and kind of container.

(15) MUSHROOMS, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

Specify: Grade; style (whether whole or button, sliced, or stems and pieces); size and kind of container.

(16) OKRA, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

Specify: Grade; size and kind of container.

(17) PEACHES, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

U. S. GRADE B (Choice)

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

U. S. GRADE D (Seconds)

U. S. GRADE E (Water Pack)

U. S. GRADE F (Pie)

Specify: Grade; type (whether free-stone or clingstone); style (whether whole, halved or sliced); range of count; strength of sirup; size and kind of container.

(18) PEARS, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

U. S. GRADE B (Choice)

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

Specify: Grade; variety (whether Bartlett Kieffer); style (whether whole, halved, quartered, or sliced);

PEARS, canned (Continued)

U. S. GRADE D (Seconds)

U. S. GRADE E (Water Pack)

U. S. GRADE F (Pie)

(19) PEAS, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

Specify: Grade; type (early or sugar); sieve size; size and kind of container.

U. S. GRADE B (Extra Standard)

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

(20) PIMENTOS, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

Specify: Grade; style (whether whole or pieces); size and kind of container.

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

(21) PLUMS, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

Specify: Grade; variety (whether green gage, yellow, egg or Italian); style (whether whole, halved, or pitted); minimum count; strength of sirup; drained weight; size and kind of container.

U. S. GRADE B (Choice)

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

U. S. GRADE D (Seconds)

U. S. GRADE E (Water Pack)

U. S. GRADE F (Pie)

(22) PUMPKIN, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

Specify: Grade; size and kind of container.

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

(23) SAUERKRAUT, canned

U. S. GRADE A (First Quality)

Specify: Grade; size and kind of container.

U. S. GRADE C (Second Quality)

(24) SAUERKRAUT, bulk

U. S. GRADE A (First Quality)

Specify: Grade; size and kind of container.

U. S. GRADE C (Second Quality)

(25) SPINACH, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

Specify: Grade; minimum drained weight; size and kind of container.

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

(26) SUCCOTASH, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

Specify: Grade; size and kind of container.

U. S. GRADE B (Extra Standard)

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

(27) SWEET POTATOES, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

Specify: Grade; size and kind of container.

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

(28) TOMATOES, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

Specify: Grade; size and kind of container.

U. S. GRADE B (Extra Standard)

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

(29) TOMATO CATSUP, canned or bottled

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

Specify: Grade; size and kind of bottle or container.

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

(30) TOMATO JUICE, canned or bottled

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

Specify: Grade; size and kind of bottle or other container.

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

(31) TOMATO PULP, canned

U. S. GRADE A (Fancy)

Specify: Grade; specific gravity; size and kind of container.

U. S. GRADE C (Standard)

From these suggestions, a detailed description of the canned product may be developed to meet the particular requirements of any consumers' cooperative or other type of purchasing agency. Organizations desiring further specific details for developing their specifications should write to the Agricultural Marketing Service, or to the Consumers' Counsel Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

III. THE BASIS OF A PURCHASE SPECIFICATION FOR CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

In preparing a purchase specification for canned fruits and vegetables the purchaser is faced with the problem of what subject matter should be covered and what requirements should be laid down. In the paragraphs below will be found suggestions as to the basic provisions that should be made by a purchaser of canned fruits and vegetables in his purchase specification.

Some purchasing departments require that dealers submit samples of the merchandise they propose to deliver prior to the opening of the bids. In such case the provisions suggested below could be used in their entirety. If the specifications are presented in the form suggested in the pages above it should be unnecessary to submit samples when bids are invited. In such case, or if the purchasing department for any other reason should not require bid samples, paragraphs 1 to 7, inclusive, below would not be applicable.

SAMPLES

1. At least two bid samples of each item should be submitted, free of expense, by each bidder, except as specified in paragraph 2; one sample to be cut, the other to be retained by the purchaser in case of accepted samples, to be cut if question arises as to whether satisfactory delivery is being made. Samples of unsuccessful bidders should upon request, be returned at the bidder's expense.

2. When a bid is accompanied by a Federal certificate of grade issued by the Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture certifying that the lot of merchandise it is proposed to deliver is of the grade required in the bid, it is unnecessary for a bidder to submit samples for grading. If this is the case delivery must be made from the identical lot covered by the certificate of grade. In the event question arises as to whether delivery has been made from the lot originally graded, the purchaser may submit samples to the Agricultural Marketing Service of the United States Department of Agriculture for grading at the expense of the contractor.

3. Samples required in the accompanying specifications should be delivered to the office of the purchaser prior to the date the proposals are to be opened as set forth in the "Invitation for Bids". Samples arriving during or after the date set for the opening of bids or failure to submit samples when required disqualify the bid.

10. Articles should be delivered in the usual wholesale trade packages when ordered in large quantities, unless some other method of packing is provided for in the specifications. Except when otherwise provided, it should be understood and agreed that the container remain the property of the purchaser. When it is provided that container is to be returned the expense and risk should be borne by the contractor. All weights are understood to be net unless otherwise stated.

11. The merchandise described in the specifications should be delivered within the time stated opposite each item in the accepted proposals. When no time of delivery is stated by the bidder, it should be understood and agreed that deliveries are to be made within _____ days after receipt of order, and it should be so written in the formal contract. Upon the failure of a contractor, whose proposal has been accepted, to make delivery of articles or materials within the time stated in the proposal, or where no time is stated, within _____ days upon orders regularly issued, the right should be reserved to the purchaser, to purchase in the open market the quantity of material or number of articles covered by such orders, or in the judgment of the purchaser, their equivalent and answering the same purpose, and if a greater price than that named in the proposal is paid therefor, the amount of such excess should be charged to original contractor.

INSPECTIONS

12. All bid samples and samples of delivered merchandise should be subject to inspection and test by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture; the cost of inspection of bid samples to be borne by the bidders, and all costs incident to the inspection of samples from deliveries to be borne by the contractor. Rejected articles should be promptly removed, by and at the expense of the contractor, after notification of rejection.

13. Contractors wishing assurances of the quality of their merchandise before delivery may request inspection by the Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, at the contractor's expense. Official certificates issued by canned fruit and vegetable graders of that Service will be evidence of good delivery provided (1) the certificate bears date not more than 60 days prior to the date of delivery, and indicates that the merchandise was sampled by an official sampler and/or grader and graded by an official grader, and (2) satisfactory evidence accompanies delivery indicating that the goods are those from which samples were originally drawn and graded.* In the absence of satisfactory evidence of inspection and grading at shipping point, or if there is evidence that substitution has been attempted, samples should be drawn from deliveries by representatives of the purchaser and forwarded to the nearest official grading station to ascertain whether specification requirements are met.

* Ordinarily, little difficulty will be experienced in establishing the identity of a delivery if it bears embossed code marks identical to those on goods originally graded.

DRAINED WEIGHT

14. Drained weight should be determined by draining as outlined in the U. S. standards for grades, Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, for the various canned commodities. In commodities in which, by reason of inherent characteristics, unavoidable variations occur, drained weights will be averaged, provided the drained weight of any can in the sample is not more than 10 per cent below that required in the specifications. If the drained weight requirement is not met, but in all other respects the delivery is satisfactory, the merchandise may at the option of the purchaser be accepted, Provided: (1) the contractor agrees that a proportionate deduction for the deficiency shall be made in settlement or (2) the contractor agrees to furnish enough additional merchandise to compensate for the deficiency.

GUARANTEE

15. A contractor should guarantee merchandise against "swells" for a period of 12 months after delivery. The term "swells" refers to flippers, springers, hard swells, or to cans out of condition for any reason whatsoever.

16. Final inspection and acceptance of merchandise should be made after delivery, at points designated in "Invitation for Bids", except as otherwise provided. This final inspection is conclusive except as regards latent defects, fraud, or such gross mistakes as amount to fraud. Final inspection and acceptance or rejection of the merchandise ought to be made as promptly as practicable, but failure to inspect and accept or reject merchandise shall not impose liability on the purchaser for such merchandise as is not in accordance with the specifications.

DELAYS - - DAMAGE

17. If the contractor refuses or fails to make deliveries of the merchandise within the time specified, or any extension thereof, the purchaser may terminate the right of the contractor to proceed with deliveries or such part or parts thereof as to which there has been delay. In such event, the purchaser may purchase similar merchandise in the open market or secure the manufacture and delivery of the merchandise by contract or otherwise, and the contractor will then be liable to the purchaser for any excess cost occasioned the purchaser thereby. However, the contractor should not be charged with any excess cost occasioned the purchaser by the purchase of merchandise in the open market or under other contracts when the delay of the contractor in making deliveries is due to unforeseen causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the contractor, including, but not restricted to, acts of God or of the public enemy, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, freight embargoes, and unusually severe weather but not including delays caused by subcontractors.

The contractor should be obligated within _____ days from the beginning of any such delay to notify the purchaser in writing of the causes of delay, and as to whom should ascertain the facts and extent of the delay.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR MERCHANDISE TENDERED

18. The contractor should be responsible for the canned goods until they are delivered at the designated point, and the contractor should bear all risk on rejected articles after notice of rejection. Where final inspection is at point of origin, but delivery by contractor is at some other point, the contractor's responsibility should continue until delivery is accomplished.

PAYMENTS

19. The contractor should be paid, upon the submission of properly certified invoices or vouchers in duplicate, the prices stipulated therein for articles delivered and accepted, less deductions, if any, as therein provided. Unless otherwise specified, payments should be made on partial deliveries accepted by purchaser when the amount due on such deliveries so warrants; or, when requested by the contractor, payments for accepted partial deliveries should be made whenever such payments would equal or exceed 50 per cent of the total amount of the contract.

RESERVATIONS

20. The right should be reserved to reject any and all bids, to waive technical defects, and to accept or reject any part of any bid, if, in the judgment of the purchaser his interests require it; also the right to declare any contractor in default if, in the opinion of the purchaser there has been at any time a failure to perform faithfully any of the contract stipulations, or in case of a willful attempt to impose upon the purchaser articles inferior to those required by the contract. It should be understood and agreed that when a contractor has been declared in default by the purchaser, thereafter, during the remainder of the contract period, he may purchase the articles covered by the contract of the defaulting contractor without furnishing said defaulting contractor orders therefor, and that any excess cost over the original contract price be charged to said defaulting contractor.

DISCOUNT

21. When discounts are quoted for payments within a specified time, it should be understood and agreed that the discount period begins with the date of acceptance of material and submission of properly certified invoices or vouchers in duplicate.

IV. LIST OF U. S. STANDARDS FOR GRADES OF
CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

1. APPLES, Canned
Revised February 8, 1938. 7 pp., mimeographed.
2. APPLESAUCE, Canned
Revised January 25, 1934. 7 pp., mimeographed.
3. APRICOTS, Canned (Tentative)
Revised October 15, 1936. 12 pp., mimeographed.
4. ASPARAGUS, Canned (Tentative)
Revised April 25, 1936. 9 pp., mimeographed.
5. BEANS, DRY, Canned (Tentative)
Revised January 10, 1934. 7 pp., mimeographed.
6. BEANS, LIMA, Canned (Tentative)
Revised September 1, 1936. 9 pp., mimeographed.
7. BEANS, SNAP, Canned
Promulgated February 23, 1933. 6 pp., printed.
8. BEETS, Canned
Revised May 21, 1935. 9 pp., mimeographed.
9. CARROTS, Canned (Tentative)
Revised June 1, 1935. 9 pp., mimeographed.
10. CHERRIES, Red Sour, Pitted, Canned (Tentative)
Revised August 5, 1938. 8 pp., mimeographed.
11. CHERRIES, SWEET, Canned (Tentative)
Revised September 10, 1938. 12 pp., mimeographed.
12. CORN, Canned 12a-cream style, 12b-whole-grain style
Promulgated November 22, 1932. 5 pp., printed (each).
13. GRAPEFRUIT, Canned
Promulgated February 21, 1934. 5 pp., printed.
14. GRAPEFRUIT JUICE, Canned (Tentative)
Revised February 25, 1939. 7 pp., mimeographed.
15. MUSHROOMS, Canned (Tentative)
Revised June 26, 1935. 9 pp., mimeographed.
16. OKRA, Canned (Tentative)
Issued October 18, 1933. 8 pp., mimeographed.

17. PEACHES, Yellow Clingstone, Canned (Tentative)
Revised June 24, 1935. 13 pp., mimeographed.
18. PEARS, Canned (Tentative)
Revised June 22, 1936. 11 pp., mimeographed.
19. PEAS, Canned
Promulgated January 16, 1933. 5 pp., printed.
20. PIMIENTOS, Canned (Tentative)
Revised October 6, 1933. 8 pp., mimeographed.
21. PLUMS, (Italian Prunes - Canned Fresh), Canned (Tentative)
Revised December 17, 1936. 10 pp., mimeographed.
22. PUMPKIN, Canned (Tentative)
Revised March 15, 1934. 6 pp., mimeographed.
23. SAUERKRAUT, Canned (Tentative)
Revised February 8, 1933. 8 pp., mimeographed.
24. SAUERKRAUT, Barreled
Revised May 27, 1935. 6 pp., mimeographed.
25. SPINACH, Canned (Tentative)
Revised February 10, 1933. 7 pp., mimeographed.
26. SUCCOTASH, Canned (Tentative)
Revised April 11, 1932. 2 pp., mimeographed.
27. SWEET POTATOES, Canned (Tentative)
Revised August 1, 1934. 8 pp., mimeographed.
28. TOMATOES, Canned
Promulgated January 16, 1933. 6 pp., printed.
29. TOMATO CATSUP, Canned or Bottled
Issued January 25, 1934. 7 pp., mimeographed.
30. TOMATO JUICE, Canned or Bottled.
Revised August 29, 1938. 6 pp., mimeographed.
31. TOMATO PULP, Canned
Revised January 25, 1934. 6 pp., mimeographed.

Copies of U. S. Standards for grades of canned fruits and vegetables may be obtained free by writing to the Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, or to Consumers' Counsel Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

